



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
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JUNE 1, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THREE INDICTED FOR VIOLATING IMMIGRATION LAWS

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a citizen of Guatemala and two citizens of Mexico were indicted by a federal grand jury today, in separate and unrelated cases, for violating immigration laws.

* **Ponciano Cortes**, 36, a citizen of Mexico, was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Springfield.

The federal indictment alleges that **Cortes** transported four illegal aliens within the United States on May 13, 2005, in Howell County, Mo.

Cortes was originally charged in a criminal complaint filed in federal court on May 23, 2005, in Springfield.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas C. Bunch. It was investigated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

* **Jorge Usiel de Leon-Rivera**, 21, a citizen of Guatemala, was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Springfield.

The federal indictment alleges that **de Leon-Rivera** illegally re-entered the United States. The indictment alleges that **de Leon-Rivera** was found in Carthage, Mo., on May 13, 2005, after having been previously removed from the United States.

de Leon-Rivera was originally charged in a criminal complaint filed in federal court on May 23, 2005, in Springfield.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas C. Bunch. It was

investigated by the Carthage, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

* **Roberto Mendoza-Loaeza**, 22, a citizen of Mexico, was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Springfield.

The federal indictment alleges that **Mendoza-Loaeza** illegally re-entered the United States. The indictment alleges that **Mendoza-Loaeza** was found in Texas County, Mo., on May 11, 2005, after having been previously deported from the United States.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in these indictments are simply accusations and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow